Referring again to FIGS. **1–5**, headband **111** (or **111***a* in FIG. **6**) is defined by at least one or more elongated straps **180**, made from a soft material which is adjustably attached to the adjacent the ends of curved track **114** by means of buckles or clasp members **182** formed with slotted openings **184**. These buckles are hooked around the rails of the track, as illustrated in FIGS. **1**, **2**, **3** and **5**. Each buckle is further provided with a slot **186** in which each respective end of strap **180** is received. A securing means defined by a strip **188** formed from a hook-type fastening material is fixedly attached to each respective end of strap **180** so that the strip can be secured to the strap, whereby headband **111** can be readily adjusted to the patient's head.

At least one of the face plates **112** or **112***a* is provided with a tube support means that can be defined by plurality of support pins **190** or channel member **190***a* positioned and arranged on the outer surface thereof to receive and support a nasogastric tube **192**, as illustrated in FIGS. **1** and **6**.

An important advantage of the present invention is the positioning of the track **114** and the housing **128** at a suitable distance (e.g., about ½" to 1½") from the patients face. The adjustability of the housing **128** on the track **114** is also important in that it allows a nurse, doctor, or other health care provider to move the housing and tube relative to the patient's mouth to view different portions of the lips, tongue and/or interior of the mouth and to clean the oral cavity without removing the tube from the patient's trachea. The track **114** and housing **122** are preferably made of a rigid plastic material, e.g., polyethylene, such as "DELRIN"™.

The foregoing should only be considered as illustrative of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes may readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the preferred embodiment as shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the claimed invention.

What is claimed is:

1. An endotracheal tube-holder apparatus for positioning a tube within a patient's trachea, the tube holder apparatus comprising:

a curved track adapted to be positioned adjacent the mouth of a patient;

a pair of face pads, the pads being mounted at opposite ends of the track and arranged to support the track in spaced relationship to the patient's mouth whereby the area surrounding the patient's mouth is unencumbered for accommodating the circulation of air between the track and said area;

a holding block assembly adjustably mounted on said track relative to the mouth of a patient;

a tube holding fixture formed as part of said holding block assembly for releasably holding an endotracheal tube;

a bite-block support formed as part of said holding block assembly for receiving a bite-block; and

means for attaching said endotracheal tube-holder apparatus on a patient's head.

2. An endotracheal tube-holder apparatus as recited in claim **1**, wherein each of said pads is carried by a face plate with each plate mounted to the track.

3. An endotracheal tube-holder apparatus as recited in claim **2**, further including a bite block adapted to be removeably positioned in the bite block support.

4. An endotracheal tube-holder apparatus as recited in claim **3**, wherein said face plates are fixedly attached to said track means and angularly disposed thereto.

5. An endotracheal tube-holder apparatus as recited in claim **2**, wherein said track has a cross-sectional configuration and wherein said holding block assembly comprises a housing having a longitudinal passageway with a cross-sectional configuration to match the cross-sectional configuration of said track.

6. An endotracheal tube-holder apparatus as recited in claim **5**, wherein said tube holder fixture includes a tube holding bracket and a depending member integrally formed with said housing.

7. An endotracheal tube-holder apparatus as recited in claim **6**, wherein said tube holding fixture further includes a thumb screw.

8. An endotracheal tube-holder apparatus as recited in claim **7**, wherein said tube holding bracket includes a depending member having a slot formed therein, and wherein said thumb screw includes a rotatable movable head formed with a slide pin, the slide pin being adapted to be positioned in said slot of said depending member, whereby said head is prevented from rotating as said thumb screw is rotated to engage said head with said endotracheal tube.

9. An endotracheal tube-holder apparatus as recited in claim **8**, wherein said tube holding bracket is formed having a V-shaped notch aligned with said head of said thumb screw, whereby said endotracheal tube is secured in said V-shaped notch.

10. An endotracheal tube-holder apparatus as recited in claim **9**, wherein said V-shaped notch is defined by a pair of converging wall members that are joined together to define an extended apex member that further defines said guide member in said tubular frame member.

11. An endotracheal tube-holder apparatus as recited in claim **10**, wherein at least one of said face plates is provided with a tube mounting means which is positioned thereon to receive and support an elongated tube.

12. An endotracheal tube-holder apparatus as recited in claim **11**, wherein said tube mounting means comprises a plurality of pins.

13. An endotracheal tube-holder apparatus as recited in claim **11**, wherein said tube mounting means comprises a channel member.

14. An endotracheal tube-holder apparatus as recited in claim **11**, wherein said means for attaching said endotracheal tube-holder apparatus on the patient's head comprises at least one elongated headband.

15. An endotracheal tube-holder apparatus as recited in claim **14**, wherein said headband is attached to said track means by at least one buckle mounted to said track means.

16. An endotracheal tube-holder apparatus as recited in claim **14**, wherein said headband is attached to said face plates.

17. An endotracheal tube-holder apparatus as recited in claim **5**, wherein said bite-block support comprises a tubular frame member having a guide member extending inward of said tubular frame member, whereby said bite block is formed with a channel to receive said guide member, and wherein said bite block is removably inserted and supported within said frame member.

18. An endotracheal tube-holder apparatus as recited in claim **17**, wherein said cross-sectional configuration of said track is defined by a pair of vertically disposed rail members and a pair of horizontally disposed rail members, and wherein said passageway of said housing is formed having corresponding vertical grooves and horizontal grooves in which said corresponding rail members are respectively received, whereby said holding block assembly is slidably adjusted to a selective position along said track so as to